

Q and A from the Montana Standards-Based Education Adobe Connect Presentation on September 15, 2009

Q: What are the upcoming projects/activities related to Gifted and Talented?

A: In November 2009 there will be an online presentation of myths about Gifted and Talented learners. At that time look for changes to the Web page as well <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Gifted/index.html>. The Gifted and Talented Response to Intervention (RTI) final document is about ready. This document will integrate Gifted and Talented programming into the RTI process. It will be available to download in paper form from the Gifted and Talented Education Web page. The standards-based documents are in process, but no time frame has been established.

Q: I would like to know more about PESA. It says it will be active in fall 2010.

A: PESA stands for Prairie Education Service Area and it is now an established Regional Service Area (RSA). All RSAs serve to provide professional development to districts in the region. The RSA is in the process of hiring a director. In the interim you may contact Jim Germann, Superintendent of Glendive Public Schools for information. He may be reached by telephone, (406) 337-5293, or e-mail, germannj@glendiveschools.com.

Q: When is the three-hour workshop for science inquiry?

A: The three-hour workshop on the revised Montana Science Content Standards provides an orientation to the standards with a focus on inquiry-based teaching and learning. A facilitator from a Regional Service Area will come to your school, district and/or curriculum consortium and provide the workshop. To schedule a workshop contact your Regional Service Area.

Western Montana CSPD (WM-CSPD)

[Nancy Marks](#)

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Montana North Central Education Service Region (MNCESR)

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Southern Montana Alliance for Resources and Training (SMART)

Peggy Azure

(406) 896-5937

Q: I'd like to know more about SMART in my area.

A: For information about the Southern Montana Alliance for Resources and Training (SMART) please visit their Web site at <http://www.msubillings.edu/smart/>. SMART provides professional development to districts within their region.

Q: I'm interested in learning more about the professional development workshops that are available.

A: Regional Service areas are currently providing districts Level 1 training for awareness and orientation to the revised content standards. Please contact your Regional Service Area for information.

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Or you may contact the curriculum specialist specific to the content area in which you are interested.

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Q: How do we access the Level 1 Technology standards Professional Development?

A: The Level 1 Technology professional development workshop is integrated with the Information Literacy/Library Media content standards. The OPI is planning a training session to establish workshop facilitators for the Regional Service Areas. For information about this work contact Michael Hall, Technology Specialist, by telephone, (406) 444-4422, or by e-mail, mhall@mt.gov, or Colet Bartow by telephone, (406) 444-3583 or by e-mail, cbartow@mt.gov.

Q: What is the target date for the final adoption of the Library Standards?

A: The Information Literacy/Library Media Content Standards and Performance Descriptors were adopted by the Montana Board of Public Education in July 2008 with an effective date of August 15, 2008.

Q: When will work be done on the reading standards?

A: The Communication Arts Content Standards, which include reading, are currently being revised. The process began in January 2009 and the revised standards document will begin the adoption process by the Board of Public Education the fall of 2009. Please look for a link to the draft document on the Communication Arts Web page available through the Office of Public Instruction Web site.

Q: Our school is in the beginning process of implementing a Gifted and Talented (G/T) program. We are looking for resources to determine what tests etc. we can use to identify or base our team's decision on acceptance into a G/T program. Are there any workshops that anyone knows about that might address this process?

A: There are a number of options for professional development and/or support for Gifted and Talented programs.

- Contact your Regional Service Area (RSA) and let them know that you would like this support. A team of experts in Gifted Education Programming, who have been helping districts like yours for several years, are available for professional development and/or consult through the RSA.
- Tamara Fisher, president of the Montana Association for Gifted and Talented Education (AGATE www.mtagate.org), is presenting a session at the MEA-MFT Conference in October 2009 that will focus on beginning programming.
- The spring AGATE conference, April 15-17, 2010, at the Crowne Plaza in Billings, will feature national presenters in the field.
- Deb Poole, OPI Gifted and Talented Specialist, can answer questions regarding G/T programs and services. She can be contacted by telephone at (406) 444-3557, or by e-mail at dpool@mt.gov.

Q: How is the standards work in Montana affected by the national standards project?

A: The Montana Mathematics and Communication Arts Content Standards work is moving forward while keeping a close eye on the "common core" standards project. Please read the information about the project, the initial drafts and Montana's review found on the OPI Web site at www.mt.gov. The "National Common Core State Standards Initiative" links are on the right side banner. In September 2009 a draft of the Common Core College and Career Ready Standards will be posted and available for a 30-day public comment at <http://corestandards.org>.

Q: More info on attending the day long session at Castle Rock Middle School October 15 sounds great!

A: For those interested in attending the October 15 day-long school library session, please visit <http://www.mea-mft.org> to register for the MEA-MFT Educator's Conference. There is no extra charge for this session, but you must register for the MEA-MFT Educators' Conference to attend.

Q: When will standards for social studies be revised?

A: The current proposed timeline for revision of the social studies content standards is 2010-2011. More information regarding the cycle of standards revision is available at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Accred/cstandards.html>.